

**Fremont Conservation Commission**  
**09-08-08 Minutes**



**Fremont Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes of September 8, 2008**

Amended and approved September 22, 2008

Present: Chairman John (Jack) Karcz, Members Janice O'Brien, Tina Sturdivant, Pat deBeer, Bill Knee and Recording Secretary Meredith Bolduc.

Chrm. Karcz opened the meeting at 7:37 pm.

**GLEN OAKES FOREST & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

At 7:37 pm Forester Charlie Moreno met with the Commission to report on the status of the Glen Oaks Forest & Wildlife Management Plan. Mr. Moreno presented a Natural and Physical Features Map and his corresponding summary report. Mr. Moreno outlined the objectives that are in his report which are a) To maintain a healthy forest, b) which is managed for near-natural structure and characteristic and c) that provides diverse wildlife habitat. d) Light recreation uses (including hunting) and e) educational opportunities will be encouraged. f) Water quality, wetlands, soils, rare plant and animal species and historic features will be protected. Management of the Forest will include periodic timber harvests for the purposes of maintaining Forest health and wildlife habitat. Mr. Moreno said that his recommendations in the stewardship plan are based on the long-term management objective which the Fremont Conservation Commission has established for the Glen Oaks Conservation Area. His Natural Resource Summary was done in table form and indicated the landowner priority, relative resource value and his comments for each section. This table indicated the following objectives:

- 1) Forest Health (rated with high landowner priority and relative recourse value) - Forest improvement practices will promote future value growth by removing low quality trees and encouraging healthy valuable timber.
- 2) Wildlife Habitat (rated with high landowner priority and relative recourse value) - protecting and maintaining these habitats for a diversity of wildlife, both vertebrate and invertebrate will be encouraged.
- 3) Threatened and Endangered Species (rated with high landowner priority and relative recourse value) - there was an outline of species.
- 4) Soils (rated landowner priority not applicable and with good relative recourse value) - Preventing erosion and naturally increasing soil fertility are management objectives.
- 5) Water Resources (rated with high landowner priority and relative recourse value) - Protecting surface water features is a high management priority.

Mr. Moreno's table for property uses indicated the landowner priority and his comments for each section as follows:

- 1) Woodland Access (rated with medium landowner priority) - Trails are not encouraged in this section to provide wildlife breeding habitat that is free from regular disturbance.
- 2) Recreational Use (rated with Medium- high landowner priority) - Uses welcome are non-motorized trail recreation and hunting.
- 3) Cultural Features (rated with Medium- high landowner priority) - Preserving existing cellar holes,

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cemetery, stonewalls, evidence of granite and bog mining is an important management concern. 4) Forest Aesthetics (rated with high landowner priority) - Harvest operations, including wildlife projects and timberstand improvement (TSI) should be thoughtfully prepared and neatly carried out. 5) Invasive Plants (rated with medium landowner priority) - Annual monitoring and immediate removal of any plants is a priority objective for maintaining forest health. 6) Boundaries (rated with high landowner priority) - Upland property bounds are to be blazed and painted with maintenance scheduled on a 10-year basis. 7) Timber Production (rated with medium landowner priority) - The growth of high quality sawtimber is a key silvicultural objective. 8) Timber Income (rated with low landowner priority) - Cutting timber as an investment is not a priority goal and any income will be reinvested in to the management of the Conservation area. 9) Timberstand Improvement (TSI) (rated with high landowner priority) - TSI can enhance wildlife habitat.

Mr. Moreno asked if snowmobiles are allowed. It was noted that they are allowed with a minimum of 6 inches of snow and consistent with the Town Forest Ordinance which states *“Snowmobile use only on designated, signed trails; such signs shall be conspicuously posted and permit the use of snowmobiles specifically. Snowmobile trails maintenance vehicles shall also be allowed on any signed snowmobile trails. Snowmobile use in all Town Forests shall occur only from December 15, subject to sufficient snow cover (six inches or more), until the ground begins to thaw.”*

There was a conversation relative to trapping. Mr. Moreno stated that the State would have the say as far as which animals could be trapped. He said that trapping usually includes “nuisance animals” such as beaver, but could also include mink, otter and fisher cats if they are found to be on the property. The trapping/hunting recommendation could be written up to limit it to nuisance animals as determined by the Conservation Commission and if they need to seek outside counsel they could consult with the NH Fish & Game. Mr. Moreno agreed to talk to NH Fish and Game relative to what would be an appropriate trap and hunt limit for the area given its size. Mbr. Knee offered that a trapper could tell the State what is on the property to trap. This would also be subject to the Town Forest Ordinance which says that the Selectmen would make the decision relative to trapping permission after consideration of the recommendation of the Conservation Commission and *“No trapping activities shall occur in any Town Forest, unless a “Permit to Trap” has been signed and issued by the Board of Selectmen or their designee. Any trapping activities shall be done only in strict accordance with the laws of the State of New Hampshire.”* Mr. Moreno was given a copy of the Town Forest Ordinance.

During a general conversation relative to permitted uses Mr. Moreno suggested to limit large mountain bikes groups due to damage potential of the trail areas and the Members agreed to recommend that mountain biker be limited to groups of 10 or less. The Members agreed with Mr. Moreno’s suggestion to recommend not increasing trails due to the disturbance of groundcover that would lead to soil erosion and to disturbance of habitat that would deter animals and birds breeding.

Flooding around the island within the area, due to beavers, was discussed. Mr. Moreno recommended leaving that area as natural because it is a magnet for wildlife. There was some talk about an

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endangered plant species and Mr. Knee said that there has been at least one specimen taken. Mr. Moreno did not know where in the swamp it is located. Mr. Moreno will consult with the

Natural Heritage Bureau relative to his Forest Stewardship Plan and his recommendation of what to do with the island within the Forest.

Timber stand improvements and income were discussed. Mr. Moreno said that he would recommend to thin out the not-so-good trees and keep the better trees. This would involve some cost. Mbr. deBeer suggested that there should be a list of some of the things that will cost money so we don't lose track of that. Mr. Moreno agreed to create such a list. Chrm. Karcz asked if Mr. Moreno has heard anything on how carbon is likely to affect the Forest. Mr. Moreno said that he is hearing some about carbon, but not enough to effectively comment. He thinks that this is a small enough area that if it were kept to low-key activity and as close to nature as possible, there should be no adverse effect. Mbr. Knee said that he feels that affects of carbon uptake is really in large Forested areas.

Mr. Moreno said the he is about 2/3 done with the overall project and he has 1/4 of the final write up done. He will amend and update his report and meet again with the Commission at 7:30 pm on January 5, 2009.

### **MINUTES**

Mbr. deBeer motioned to amend the August 18, 2008 minutes by adding as sentence #3 to the Water Ordinance on page 2 paragraph 2; *Mbr. O'Brien said that businesses would have the ability to use whatever water they may need to conduct their normal course of business provided that they did not sell the water for profit, or use the water for direct profit, i.e. water parks pool filling, etc.*

Motion seconded by Mbr. O'Brien with unanimous favorable vote.

Mbr. Sturdivant made the motion to accept the minutes of the August 18, 2008 meeting as amended. The motion was seconded by Mbr. O'Brien with unanimous favorable.

### **PRIME WETLAND**

Chrm. Karcz reported that the Commission has received an invoice from Mark West of West Environmental, Inc. in the amount of \$350 for completing the digitizing of the prime wetland boundaries and GIS mapping expenses. Mr. West related to Mrs. Bolduc via phone today that he has sent the digitized data to Dollard Associates to be put on the Tax Map and that Mr. Dollard indicated he was backed up and would probably not get to the project for a couple of weeks. Mr. West said that he would follow up on the mapping progress and also take the completed project to NH DES for their acceptance. Mr. West has previously said that he will produce a final aerial overlay map for the Town and submit all original aerial pictures.

Mbr. Sturdivant made the motion that the invoice #4991 in the amount of \$350 be paid to West Environmental from the Current Use Fund.

The motion was seconded by Mbr. O'Brien with unanimous favorable vote.

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#### **WATER RESOURCE PLAN**

Chrm. Karcz reported that he submitted the draft of the Water Rights Ordinance to the Planning Board who sent it on to the Board of Selectmen for their review and for Town Council's review before it can be moved forward as a zoning article for the voters to consider at the 2009 Town Meeting.

#### **MASTER PLAN**

Mbr. deBeer said that she would like to have a River Corridor Management Plan included in the NRI chapter of the Master Plan. She will look into this and report back to the Members.

#### **ERLAC**

##### Signs

Mbr. Sturdivant said that the protected river sign at the rail trail will be in place soon.

#### **GLEN OAKES**

Mbr. O'Brien reported that there is going to be a brief dedication of the kiosk created by Eagle Scout Mark Prescott at the Town Forest site at 10:00 am on Saturday September 13, 2008 and all are invited to attend.

#### **BUDGET**

Chrm. Karcz stated that he has a September 10, 2008 appointment with the Budget Committee to present the 2009 Conservation Commission budget that was approved by the Members and the Selectmen.

#### **TREASURERS REPORT**

Chrm. Karcz reported that the Commission received the Conservation account balances as of August 31, 2008 as submitted by Town Treasurer Kimberly Dunbar. Interest earned was reflected in all accounts. Mrs. Dunbar has created a new report that can breakdown the costs of a specific project and print it out individually.

#### **INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Notice of the September 25, 2008 Office of Energy & Planning (OEP) Fall Planning & Zoning Conference at Loon Mountain in Lincoln, NH.

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to adjourn at 9:40 pm.

Motion seconded by Mbr. Sturdivant with unanimous favorable vote.

Meredith Bolduc

Land Use AA & Recording Secretary